

CLAIMS IN THE APPLICATION

1. (Previously Presented) Method for brewing tea comprising:

introducing water into a blend tank;

circulating water from said blend tank through a heat exchanger for heating said water to a predetermined temperature and returning said water to said blend tank;

transferring said water into a brew tank containing tea;

circulating said water in said brew tank into contact with said tea thereby producing liquid tea concentrate; and

circulating said concentrate from said brew tank through said heat exchanger and said blend tank.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said method further comprises mixing a liquid sweetener with said concentrate.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2 wherein said step of mixing a liquid sweetener comprises

introducing said liquid sweetener into said concentrate while said concentrate is circulated through said heat exchanger.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3 wherein said method further comprises conducting said liquid sweetener through a second heat exchanger for heating said liquid sweetener prior to introducing said liquid sweetener into said concentrate.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 4 wherein said method further comprises conducting said liquid sweetener through a mass flow meter for measuring the quantity of sweetener added.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5 wherein said method further comprises circulating said water through a mass flow meter to measure the quantity of water.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6 wherein said method further comprises introducing flavoring to said concentrate as said concentrate is circulated through said heat exchanger.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said method further comprises circulating said concentrate through a cooling system to cool said concentrate.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 8 wherein said method further comprises storing said

concentrate in a storage tank in a cold storage room after passing through said cooling system.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9 wherein said method further comprises introducing said concentrate into a mixing tank and adding water to said concentrate to produce a liquid tea beverage.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10 wherein said method further comprises mixing a liquid sweetener with said concentrate.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11 wherein said step of mixing a liquid sweetener comprises introducing said liquid sweetener into said concentrate while said concentrate is circulated through said heat exchanger.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12 wherein said method further comprises conducting said liquid sweetener through a second heat exchanger for heating said liquid sweetener prior to introducing said liquid sweetener into said concentrate.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13 wherein said method further comprises conducting said liquid sweetener through a mass flow meter for measuring the quantity of sweetener added.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14 wherein said method further comprises circulating said water through a mass flow meter to measure the quantity of water.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15 wherein said method further comprises introducing flavoring to said concentrate as said concentrate is circulated through said heat exchanger.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said method further comprises:

placing a plurality of tea bags on a  
lifting base disposed in said brew tank;  
and

raising said lifting base until said tea  
bags contact a holding plate thereby  
squeezing liquid tea concentrate from  
said tea bags.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17 wherein said method further comprises:

raising said lifting base to place said  
tea bags on said lifting base; and

lowering said lifting base into said  
brew tank.

19. (Currently Amended) Method for brewing tea  
comprising:

placing a plurality of tea bags on a  
lifting base disposed in a brew tank;

lowering said lifting base into said  
brew tank;

introducing water into a blend tank;

circulating water from said blend tank  
through a first heat exchanger for  
heating said water to a predetermined  
temperature and returning said water to  
said blend tank; and

circulating ~~heated~~ said water from said  
blend tank through said brew tank and  
into contact with said tea bags thereby  
brewing liquid tea concentrate; ~~and~~

circulating said water from said brew  
tank through said first heat exchanger  
and through said blend tank;

raising said lifting base until said tea  
bags contact a holding plate thereby

squeezing liquid tea concentrate from  
said tea bags; and

mixing a liquid sweetener with said  
liquid tea concentrate.

20. (Canceled).

21. (Canceled).

22. (Canceled).

23. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim  
19 22 wherein said method further comprises conducting said  
concentrate through a cooling system to cool said concentrate.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to  
claim 23 wherein said method further comprises introducing said  
concentrate into a mixing tank and adding water to said  
concentrate to produce a liquid tea beverage.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to  
claim 24 wherein said step of mixing a liquid sweetener comprises  
introducing said liquid sweetener into said concentrate while  
said concentrate is circulated through said first heat exchanger.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to  
claim 25 wherein said method further comprises conducting said  
liquid sweetener through a second heat exchanger for heating said

liquid sweetener prior to introducing said liquid sweetener into said concentrate.

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 26 wherein said method further comprises conducting said liquid sweetener through a mass flow meter for measuring the quantity of sweetener added.

28. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27 wherein said method further comprises circulating said water through a mass flow meter to measure the quantity of water.

29. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 28 wherein said method further comprises introducing flavoring to said concentrate as said concentrate is circulated through said first heat exchanger.

Claims 30 - 53 (Canceled).